

Clearly this rationale cannot apply to device claim 16 because the language of claim 16 clearly requires "a dry ISSG process". Claims 17-18 further define the recited dry ISSG process of Claim 16. In view of this, the restriction against claims 16-18 is not supported by a logically connected rationale. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

No traverse is presented with respect to device claims 19-20.

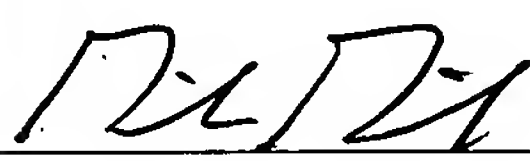
Given that the restriction against claims 16-18 is an improper rationale, it is requested that claims 16-18 be examined together with the elected method Claims 1-5 (Group II).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests examination of the provisionally elected Group II claims (1-15) and concurrent examination of claims 16-18. Should any other action be contemplated by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (408) 392-9250 to discuss the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2257 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time and/or fee for additional claims, which may be required.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 2, 2005, 2005.

 6/1/05

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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